

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 0905

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SUBJECT: GREEK ENERGY SITUATION

REF: (A) 75 ATHENS 5297, (B) 75 ATHENS A-176, (C) 75 ATHENS 10015,
(D) 76 ATHENS 424, (E) 76 ATHENS 9324, (F) 76 ATHENS 9750,
(G) 76 ATHENS 12135, (H) ATHENS A-10

SUMMARY: THE GOG IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO COME
TO GRIPS WITH GREECE'S ENERGY PROBLEMS, IN PARTICULAR TO REDUCE
DEPENDENCY ON EXPENSIVE AND, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, UNCERTAIN OIL
IMPORTS. A CENTRAL FEATURE OF THE GOG PROGRAM IS RAPID
IDENTIFICATION AND EXPLORATION OF LOCAL ENERGY RESOURCES,
ESPECIALLY LIGNITE AND OIL. TWO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE NATIONAL
ENERGY COUNCIL (NEC) AND THE PUBLIC PETROLEUM CORPORATION (DEP),
ARE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE EFFORT. THE NEC IS TO MAP OUT A COORDINAT
ED
AND SYSTEMATIC BLUEPRINT FOR THE ENTIRE SECTOR AND DEVELOP A
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RELIABLE DATA BANK. DEP WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
GREECE'S OIL RESERVES, IMPLEMENTING RECENTLY ENACTED LEGISLATION
(LAW 468/76) GOVERNING OIL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN GREECE
(SEE REF H). THE PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION (PPC) HAS NOW ALTERED
ITS ELECTRICITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO SHIFT AWAY FROM OIL-FIRED
UNITES AND INTO LOCAL LIGNITE AND NUCLEAR POWER. DUE TO CONTINUED
USE OF OIL FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON OIL

FOR NON-ELECTRIC POWER, HOWEVER, GREECE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE
SIZABLE IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. ENDH
SUMMARY

1. BACKGROUND: DURING THE TWENTY YEAR PERIOD PRECEDING THE ENERGY
CRISIS OF 1973, ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN GREECE INCREASED STEADILY
AT AN AVERAGE 11 PERCENT PER ANNUM. DURING THAT PERIOD, PETROLEUM
PROVIDED OVER 70 PERCENT OF ENERGY CONSUMED (COMPUTED ON A PRIMARY
ENERGY INPUT BASIS). GREECE WAS AND REMAINS FOR THE PRESENT ENTIRELY
DEPENDENT UPON FOREIGN SOURCES FOR ITS OIL NEEDS. THE OIL IMPORT BILL

,
ABOUT DOLLARS 40 MILLION IN 1960 ON PAYMENTS BASIS, ROSE TO
DOLLARS 400 MILLION IN 1973, DOLLARS 780 MILLION IN 1975, AND IN
1976 IS EXPECTED TO EXCEED ONE BILLION DOLLARS - A CONSIDERABLE
BURDEN FOR A NATION WITH A DEVELOPING ECONOMY AND A CHRONIC TRADE
IMBALANCE. THE GOVERNMENT IS, THEREFORE, FACED WITH URGENT DECISIONS
ON FUTURE ENERGY SOURCES AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

2. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, THROUGH NEC, WHICH WAS CREATED IN JULY
1975 (REF A), IS ATTEMPTING A SYSTEMATIC ENERGY/INPUT/OUTPUT SURVEY.
NEC IS DEVISING AN ENERGY MODEL TO EVALUATE ENERGY SECTOR
STRATEGIES, AND PLANS TO ACT AS A COORDINATING AGENCY FOR RESEARCH
EFFORTS. FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, GOG IS ALREADY TAKING STEPS
TO EXPEDITE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF LOCAL RESOURCES,
INCLUDING LIGNITE, HYDROELECTRIC POWER AND OIL, AND THUS TO
MINIMIZE IMPORTS. IN ADDITION, PLANNERS HOPE THAT, THROUGH
CONSERVATION MEASURES, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INCREASED NATIONAL
INCOME AND HIGHER ENERGY CONSUMPTION (THE PRESENT RATIO IS 1:1.6) CAN
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REDUCED. ENERGY CONSERVATION IN INDUSTRY, THE NUMBER ONE SECTOR IN
ENERGY CONSUMPTION, HAS BEEN GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY. ACCORDING TO NEC
SOURCES, ONLY 20 UNITS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 80 PERCENT OF INDUSTRIAL
ENERGY CONSUMPTION, AND IMPROVED EFFICIENCY IN THESE UNITS COULD
HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE CONSERVATION EFFORT. A MAJOR
PROBLEM FOR THE NEC, HOWEVER, IS LACK OF ACCURATE, STANDARDIZED,
STATISTICAL INFORMATION. CREATION OF A DEPENDABLE DATA BANK IS,
THEREFORE, A PRIORITY TARGET.

3. ACCORDING TO RECENT DATA FROM THE NEC, CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY
ENERGY IN 1975 AMOUNTED TO 12 MILLION TEP (PETROLEUM EQUIVALENT
TONS OF 10,000 KCAL/KG), OF WHICH 71.5 PERCENT WERE OIL, 24.2
PERCENT COAL, AND 4.3 PERCENT HYDRO. OF THE TOTAL, 44.7 PERCENT
WAS CONSUMED BY INDUSTRY, 21.5 PERCENT BY TRANSPORTATION, AND 33.8
PERCENT BY HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESS

4. ELECTRIC POWER: OF TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN 1975, 36
PERCENT WAS UTILIZED BY THE PPC, A SEMI-
AUTONOMOUS PUBLIC AGENCY WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERATION AND

DISTRIBUTION OF POWER THROUGHOUT GREECE. PPC'S INSTALLED CAPACITY OF 4.5

MILLION KW IS MADE UP OF 42 PERCENT LIGNITE-BURNING UNITS, 27 PERCENT OIL-BURNING UNITS, AND 31 PERCENT HYDROELECTRIC UNITS. IN 1975, PPC PRODUCED ABOUT 14.6 BILLION KWH OF ELECTRICITY; OF THIS, 45 PERCENT WAS PRODUCED BY LIGNITE-BURNING PLANTS, 41.3 PERCENT BY OIL-BURNING PLANTS, AND 13.7 PERCENT BY HYDRELECTIC PLANTS

WHILE 1976 ENERGY CONSUMPTION FIGURES ARE NOT YET AVAILALE, PPC POWER UNITS PRODUCED 16E BILLION KWH, BROKEN DOWN AS 55.3 PERCENT LIGNITE, 34 PERCENT OIL AND 10.7 PERCENT HYDRO.

5. UNTIL THE 1973 ENERGY CRISIS, OIL WAS THE MAJOR FUEL FOR ELECTRIC POWER, ACCOUNTING FOR 48 PERCENT OF PRODUCTION (BY INPUT) IN 1973, COMPARED TO 35 PERCENT FOR LIGNITE, AND 17 PERCENT FOR HYDRO. WITH THE ONSET OF THE ENERGY CRISIS, THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED THE PPC TO REVISE ITS LONG-TERM PROGRAM (SEE REF F), IN FAVOR OF LOCAL UNCLASSIFIED

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LIGNITE, HYDRO, AND NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND AWAY FROM OIL. ACCORDING TO AN NEC FORECAST, POWER OUTPUT IN 1990 WILL AMOUNT TO 44 BILLION KWH, 66 PERCENT OF WHICH WILL BE PRODUCED FROM LIGNITE, 18 PERCENT BY HYDRO UNITS, ONLY 7 PERCENT FROM OIL, AND 9 PERCENT (4 BILLION KWH) BY THE FIRST 600 MW NUCLEAR UNIT

6. PETROLEUM: PETROLEUM IS IMPORTANT IN PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY, BUT STILL MORE IMPORTANT AS A DIRECT SOURCE OF ENERGY. IT ALSO SERVES AS A RAW MATERIAL FOR GREECE'S PETROCHEMICAL AND OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES. THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR IN GREECE, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION (AFTER INDUSTRY), IS ALMOST ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON OIL. THUS, EVEN WITH A SHIFT TOWARD LIGNITE AND OTHER SOURCES FOR ELECTRICITY, A ND THE APPLICATION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES, THE USE OF PETRO- LEUM IN GREECE IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM 61 MILLION BARRELS PER ANNUM IN 1975 TO 90 MILLION IN 1980 KUBISCH

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7. TRACES OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS WERE REPORTED IN 1973, AND
COMMERCIALLY EXPLOITABLE OIL RESOURCES, LOCATED IN THE OFF-
SHORE PRINOS FIELD NEAR THASSOS ISLAND, WERE DISCOVERED LATE IN
1975 BY OCEANIC EXPLORATION CO OF DENVER. ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1976,
THE GREEK GOVERNMENT APPROVED SALE OF OCEANIC'S 68.75 PERCENT
EQUITY IN THIS CONCESSION TO THE CANADIAN FIRM DENISON MINES
LTD. (REF E). THE NEW DENISON CONSORTIUM IS PROCEEDING WITH
APPRAISAL DRILLINGS TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF THE THASSOS RESERVES
PRODUCTION, ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED AT UP TO 100,000 BPD, HAS BEEN
DELAYED BY REORGANIZATION OF THE CONSORTIUM AND REPORTED FINANCIAL
DIFFICULTIES OF THE EARLIER OWNERSHIP; NEVERTHELESS, FOR PLANNING
PURPOSES GOG OFFICIALS STILL PROJECT AN INITIAL PRODUCTION OF
BETWEEN 25,000 AND 30,000 BPD BY LATE 1978.

8. IN ADDITION, DEP IS PRESENTLY CARRYING OUT ONSHORE OIL
EXPLORATION IN THE NESTOS RIVER DELTA, BASED ON SEISMIC STUDIES
CONDUCTED BY ROGERS EXPLORATION CO OF HOUSTON, WITH ROMANIAN
ROMPETROL AGENCY AS CONTRACTOR FOR THREE 3,500 METER GEOLOGICAL
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DRILLINGS. THE FIRST DRILLING HAS REACHED 3,100 METERS WITH TRACES
OF NATURAL GAS AND A "SMALL" DEPOSIT OF OIL AT 3,100 FEET, ACCORDING
TO A JANUARY 18 STATEMENT BY INDUSTRY MINISTER CONOPHAGOS. DEP
HAS PREPARED A ONE BILLION DRACHMA ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE OIL
EXPLORATION PROGRAM FOR 1977 WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY GOG.
THE PROGRAM PROVIDES FOR OFFSHORE EXPLORATION IN THE SINGITIKOS GULF
NEAR CHALKIDIDI, CONTINUED EXPLORATORY DRILLINGS IN THE NESTOS DELTA,
GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL RESERACH IN THE STRYMON RIVER PLAIN
AND THE PHILIPPI, XANTHI, KOMOTINI, AND KATERINI AREAS, AND
OFFSHORE EXPLORATION IN THE CORFU-PAXI AND PREVEZA AREAS, AND THE
AMVRAKIKOS, MESSINIAKOS AND LAKONIKOS GULFS. WHILE THE ONLY
PROVEN DEPOSITS THUS FAR ARE IN THE NORTH AEGEAN AREA, GOG

PETROLEUM PLANNERS BELIEVE THAT LARGER, POTENTIALLY OIL-BEARING, GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURES IN THE IONIAN SEA OFFER BETTER LONG-TERM PROSPECTS

9. FOREIGN FIRMS WILL BE SELECTED BY COMPETITIVE BIDDING UNDER LAW 468/76 FOR SOME OF THIS WORK. THE LATTER LAW PROVIDES A LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON THE BASIS OF WHICH OIL PRODUCTION SHARING AND LEASE CONTRACTS WILL BE CONCLUDED THROUGH PRESIDENTIAL DECREES WITHOUT PRIOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL (REF H). (PREVIOUS LEGISLATION REQUIRED RATIFICATION OF CONTRACTS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS BY PARLIAMENT)

LAW 468 IS EXPECTED TO STIMULATE ACTION ON 55 CONCESSION APPLICATIONS (36 FROM U.S. FIRMS) PENDING WITH THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY. ACTION WILL ALSO BE TAKEN TO REVISE FOUR OIL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTS SIGNED WITH U.S. FIRMS DURING THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. THESE CONTRACTS ARE HELD BY (1) AN-CAR OIL CO INC OF BOSTON, WITH TWO CONTRACTS INVOLVING 5,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE NEAR THE ISLANDS OF CEPHALONIA AND ZANTE, AND 6,500 SQUARE KILOMETERS OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE IN THE NORTHERN PELOPONNESUS, (2) L.V.O. OF TULSA, WITH 4,500 SQUARE KILOMETERS OFFSHORE IN THE CENTRAL AEGEAN, AND (3) SERRES SHIPPING INC OF NEW YORK, WITH 3,200 SQUARE KILOMETERS ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE IN THE WESTERN PELOPONNESUS

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10. LIGNITE: ACCORDING TO THE NEC, PROVEN LIGNITE RESERVES ARE 3.5 BILLION METRIC TONS, OF WHICH TWO BILLION TONS, OR 55 PERCENT, ARE CONSIDERED EXPLOITABLE. MOST RESERVES ARE LOCATED IN THE PTOLEMAIS-AMYNTEON-FLORINA BASIN, NEAR THE YUGOSLAV BORDER, WITH SIZEABLE DEPOSITS ALSO AT MEGALOPOLIS AND PYRGOS. THE MEET THE ESTIMATED 9 PERCENT PER YEAR INCREASE IN CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, PPC PLANS INCLUDE INSTALLATION BY 1985 OF EIGHT ADDITIONAL 300 MW LIGNITE UNITS. THE ROLE OF LIGNITE IN POWER GENERATION INCREASED FROM 35 PERCENT IN 1973 TO 55.3 PERCENT IN 1976, AND IS EXPECTED TO FURTHER INCREASE TO 60 PERCENT IN 1981 AND 66 PERCENT IN 1990. ACCORDING TO A RECENT GOG ASSESSMENT (SEE REF G), LIGNITE RESOURCES CAN SUPPORT EXISTING PLANTS, PLUS THE EIGHT UNITS SCHEDULED FOR OPERATION BY 1985, UNTIL ABOUT 2020, AFTER WHICH THEY WILL BE DEPLETED

11. HYDROELECTRIC: CURRENT PRODUCTION IS ABOUT 2 BILLION KWH (ROUGHLY 14 PERCENT OF ESTIMATED POTENTIAL), AND PPC HYDROELECTRIC STATIONS HAVE A COMBINED INSTALLED CAPACITY OF 1,400 MW. THE PPC TEN-YEAR PLAN CALLS FOR INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL UNITS TOTALLING 1,300 MW, WHICH WOULD NEARLY DOUBLE PRESENT INSTALLED CAPACITY. OWING TO LIMITED WATER RESOURCES, HOWEVER, NEW UNITS ARE DESIGNED ONLY TO SERVICE PEAK LOADS, AND THE OVERALL SHARE OF WATER-GENERATED POWER IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN ROUGHLY AT CURRENT LEVELS THROUGH 1980 (11-13 PERCENT)

12. NUCLEAR: PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS RECENTLY APPROVED INSTALLATION OF GREECE'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, WHICH WOULD ADD 600 MW TO THE INSTALLED CAPACITY AND BE OPERATIONAL BY 1986-1987. THE PLANT WOULD PROVIDE TWO PERCENT OF GREECE'S GENERATED POWER DURING ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION, WITH A GRADUAL INCREASE TO 9 PERCENT. IF THE OPERATION PROVES SUCCESSFUL, GOG PLANNERS ARE CONSIDERING SUBSEQUENT CONSTRUCTION OF SEVERAL ADDITIONAL NUCLEAR UNITS AND VIEW NUCLEAR POWER AS THE NATURAL SUCCESSOR TO LIGNITE AS GREECE'S MAIN SOURCE OF ELECTRIC POWER

13. OTHER ENERGY SOURCES: ACCORDING TO NEC OFFICIALS, NATURAL GAS, UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH IS NOT PRESENTLY A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR, WILL ALSO PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN MEETING GREEK ENERGY REQUIREMENTS. IN THE FIRST PHASE, IMPORTED AND POSSIBLY INDIGENOUS NATURAL GAS WOULD BE USED AS FUEL BY A SMALL NUMBER OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL UNITS (FERTILIZERS, STEEL, ETC.). SUBSEQUENTLY, PLANS CALL FOR EXPANSION OF THE NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION NETWORK TO SERVE HOUSEHOLD FUEL REQUIREMENTS

NATURAL GAS DEPOSITS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED NEAR THASSOS ISLAND, BUT THE EXTEND AND COMMERCIAL FEASIBILITY OF THESE RESERVES HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED, SINCE FIRST PRIORITY HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO DEVELOPMENT OF THASSOS OIL DEPOSITS. NATURAL GAS HAS ALSO BEEN FOUND IN SMALL QUANTITIES IN THE NESTOS RIVER DELTA AND OTHER ONSHORE LOCATIONS. NEC HAS PROPOSED A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF NATURAL GAS IMPORTS INTO GREECE, AND INTENSIFIED EXPLORATION FOR INDIGENOUS NATURAL GAS DEPOSITS

14. LIMITED RESEARCH IS ALSO UNDERWAY ON LOCAL APPLICATIONS OF GEOTHERMAL AND SOLAR ENERGY. EXPLORATION FOR GEOTHERMAL ENERGY SOURCES HAS BEEN CONDUCTED AT SEVERAL POINTS IN GREECE, AND TWO WELLS HAVE BEEN DRILLED ON MILOS ISLAND FOR PPC. STEAM TESTS ARE NOW BEING CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE ENERGY POTENTIAL, AND ADDITIONAL WELLS MAY BE DRILLED PRIOR TO POSSIBLE INSTALLATION OF POWER GENERATING UNITS. APPLICATION OF SOLAR ENERGY IS SO FAR RESTRICTED TO SOLAR STILLS ON SEVERAL GREEK ISLANDS WHERE LIMITED QUANTITIES OF WATER ARE PRODUCED. ERDA WILL REPORTEDLY FINANCE PART OF A JOINT PROJECT WITH NEC FOR ESTABLISHMENT IN GREECE OF A PILOT COMMUNITY WHICH WOULD USE SOLAR ENERGY FOR POWER, HEAT, IRRIGATION, AND WATER SUPPLY.

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